

P A T E N T

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Applicant: GENE DIPOTO	Confirmation No.: 1092
Serial No.: 10/693,815	Examiner: ANURADHA RAMANA
Filing Date: OCTOBER 24, 2003	Group Art Unit: 3733
Docket No.: 1291.1143101	Customer No.: 28075
Title: METHODS AND APPARATUS FOR STABILIZING THE SPINE THROUGH AN ACCESS DEVICE	

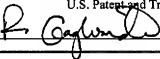
**AMENDMENT IN ACCORDANCE WITH 37 CFR §1.116 AF**  
**RESPONSE AFTER FINAL**

MAIL STOP: AF  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

**CERTIFICATE FOR ELECTRONIC TRANSMISSION:**

The undersigned hereby certifies that this paper or papers, as described herein, are being electronically transmitted to the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office on this 9th day of September, 2008.

By \_\_\_\_\_



Name: Rachel Gagliardi

Dear Sir:

This Amendment is being filed in response to the Office Action of the Examiner mailed July 8, 2008, with a shortened statutory period set to expire on October 8, 2008. Please charge any additional fees or credit overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-0413.

Please amend the above-identified patent application as follows:

**Amendments to the Claims** are reflected in the listing of claims, which begins on page 2 of this paper.

**Amendments to the Drawings** begin on page 9 of this paper and include attached replacement sheets.

**Remarks/Arguments** begin on page 10 of this paper.

An **Appendix** including amended drawing figures is attached following page 14 of this paper.